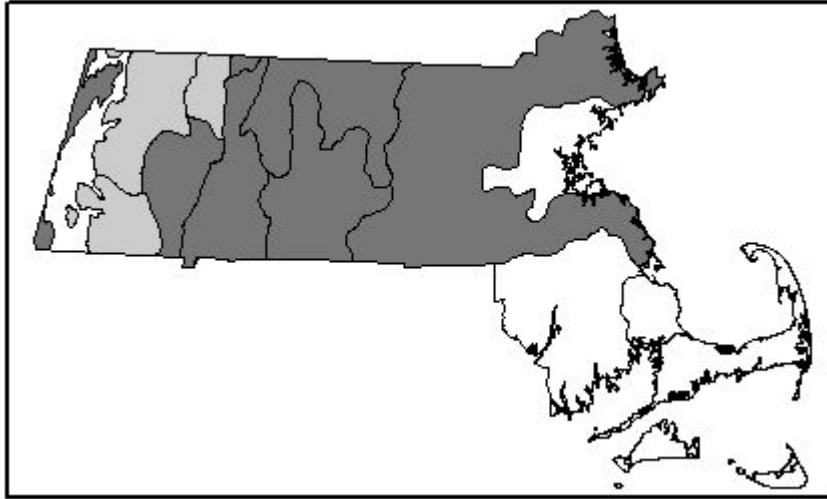


Community Name: RED OAK - SUGAR MAPLE TRANSITION FOREST

Community Code: CT1B300000

SRANK: S4



Concept: Forests with species of northern hardwoods (maples) and central hardwoods (oaks) together. Has few of the extreme northern or southern indicators.

Environmental Setting: Mesic forests of mid slopes, moderate nutrient availability, and not very acidic. Some sites, especially with abundant white pine, are old field successional, and others have been managed as woodlots and were selectively cut in the past, or may continue to be logged to the present. The understory reflects the history of the sites.

Vegetation Description: Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), and black birch (*Betula lenta*), with an admixture of white pine (*Pinus strobus*) and hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) dominate the canopy in variable proportions. White oak (*Quercus alba*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), and yellow birch (*B. alleghaniensis*) are regular associates. Striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*), maple-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), hobblebush (*Viburnum lantanoides*), and witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) are typical shrubs of primary transition forests, and lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*), is abundant in the more coniferous dominated sites. The herbaceous layer is neither dense nor sparse, often with patches of clonal species, includes wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), hay scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*), clubmosses (*Lycopodium clavatum* and *L. obscurum*), Indian cucumber (*Medeola virginiana*), Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), whorled wood-aster (*Aster acuminatus*) and broad-leaved woodland-sedge (*Carex platyphylla*).

Associations:

Habitat Values for Associated Fauna: This widespread forest type provides habitat to many, particularly to opportunistic, animal species. White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) are classic users of this forest type, although certainly not limited to it. Fisher (*Martes pennanti*) use larger, older examples. Many species move through the forest between other, specific habitats: frogs and salamanders breed in vernal pools and other wetlands and use the uplands in the rest of the year. Most of the widespread small mammals would be expected in larger occurrences of the community.

Associated Rare Plants:

NONE KNOWN

Associated Rare Animals:

NONE KNOWN

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Examples with Public Access:	Harvard Forest, Petersham; Jug End WMA, Egremont; East facing slopes of Taconics, northern Berkshire County.		
Threats:			
Management Needs:			
Synonyms			
USNVC/TNC:	Quercus rubra - Acer saccharum - (Q. alba) Forest Alliance -- Acer saccharum - Quercus rubra / Hepatica nobilis var. obtusa Forest [CEGL006046]; Quercus rubra - Acer saccharum - (Q. alba) Forest Alliance -- Quercus rubra - Acer saccharum / Viburnum acerifolium - Corylus cornuta Forest [CEGL006173]; Quercus rubra - Betula alleghaniensis / Osmunda cinnamomea Forest -- Quercus rubra - Betula alleghaniensis / Osmunda cinnamomea Forest [CEGL006000]; Tsuga canadensis - Betula alleghaniensis Forest Alliance - (associations under review) - Tsuga canadensis - Betula alleghaniensis Lower New England Northern Piedmont Forest [CEGL006109]; AND Tsuga canadensis - Fagus grandifolia forest [CEGL006088].		
MA (old name):	Part of: CNE MESIC HARDWOOD FOREST ON ACIDIC BEDROCK/TILL.		
ME:	Mixed hardwood - conifer forest community.		
NH:	Mesic Appalachian oak-sugar maple-beech-hemlock forest AND Sugar maple - beech - red oak till variant of semi rich mesic forests.		
VT:	Mesic Red Oak - Hardwood Forest.		
NY:	Part of: Appalachian oak-hickory forest.		
CT:	Quercus rubra / Viburnum acerifolium Forest; Quercus rubra - Betula alleghaniensis / Osmunda cinnamomea Forest.		
RI:	Part of: Beech - Maple Forest.		
Weatherbee:	Part of: Mesic Northern Hardwood Forest Community.		
Author:	P. Swain	Date:	10/23/00